



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FIVE FUGITIVES NABBED BY ICE IN ATLANTA

One Airport Employee Among the Arrested

ATLANTA—A 38-year-old fugitive with access to secure areas of the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport was one of five individuals arrested here Thursday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers assigned to the Fugitive Operation Task Force.

Mariela Elana Ramirez, a citizen of Guatemala entered the country through Brownsville, Texas on Feb. 15, 1997. She was found ineligible for any form of relief and was ordered removed by an immigration judge on April 13, 2005. Ramirez ignored the judge's order and remained in the country.

Also arrested was 32-year-old Martin Marquez, a citizen of Mexico ordered removed on April 13, 2005. In addition to being a fugitive, Marquez has been convicted of crimes ranging from driving while intoxicated (DWI) and domestic violence to contempt of court.

"We are committed to safeguarding our critical infrastructure sites by identifying, arresting and removing those who have gained access to secure sites who no longer have a legal right to remain in the United States," said John Mata, ICE's field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. "Our officers will continue to work tirelessly to close any national security vulnerabilities."

Those arrested are from Guatemala and Mexico. All with the exception of Marquez, are in ICE custody at the Atlanta Pre-Trial Detention Center awaiting removal from the country. Marquez is in the custody of the Georgia Police Department awaiting the outcome of his criminal charges for contempt of court. He will be deported from the country after his criminal charges are resolved.

ICE's Detention and Removal efforts nationwide promote public safety and national security by ensuring all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed to their home countries as expeditiously as possible.

ICE's Atlanta office is home to one of 18 absconder teams nationwide which are tasked with locating and apprehending aliens who attempt to hide in the United States despite the lawful orders of immigration judges who have ordered the aliens to leave the country.

In Atlanta, ICE has arrested more than 500 criminal aliens since the beginning of Fiscal Year 05. ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area in Fiscal Year 04; 2,105 were criminal aliens.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.